## REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in the instant application.

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended herewith. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced by way of the amendments.

Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

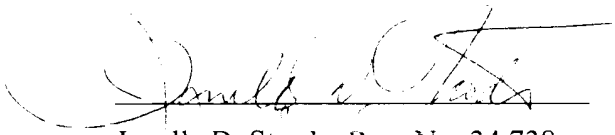
Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been rendered moot in view of the instant amendments. Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 16 to further define the total weight percent of the monomeric and oligomeric components as combined to not exceed 100 wt %. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu *et al* (U.S. Patent No. 5,593,735) for reasons of record. Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been rendered moot in view of the instant amendment. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to exclude carbamate co-crosslinking agents from Applicants' crosslinker composition as are required by the curable compositions of Wu *et al*. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

LATHROP & GAGE L.C.



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Marked-up Version of Amended Claims

1. (Once amended) A crosslinker composition consisting essentially of

a) 50 to 95 weight percent monomeric $C_1$ to $C_8$ alkoxymethyl melamine derivatives containing not more than about 0.20 wt. % of imino (>N-H) groups; and

b) 5 to 50 weight percent oligomeric $C_1$ to $C_8$ alkoxymethyl melamine derivatives, wherein

(i) when said composition comprises from 5 to 20 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content of less than 0.20 wt. %;

(ii) when said composition comprises from 20 to 30 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content, I, defined by the algorithm, $I \leq 0.02X - 0.2$, where X is the weight percent oligomer in the composition and I is expressed in weight percent imino; or

(iii) when said composition comprises from 30 to 50 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content of less than 0.7 wt. %[.][.],

c) wherein said crosslinker composition does not comprise a carbamate co-crosslinking agent, and

d) wherein said weight percent of a) plus b) does not exceed 100%.

16. (Once amended) A crosslinker composition comprising monomeric and oligomeric alkoxymethylated melamine, wherein monomeric alkoxymethylated melamine molecules have 6 moles of substituent groups attached to pendant nitrogen atoms per mole of monomeric melamine, wherein said substituent groups are selected from the group consisting of imino [>N-H], methylol [>N-$CH_2OH$] , alkoxymethyl [>N-$CH_2OR$] and acetal [>N-$CH_2OCH_2OR$]; and wherein difunctional bridging groups between melamine units in oligomeric alkoxymethylated melamine are selected from the group consisting of methylene groups [>N-$CH_2$-N<] and methylene ether [>N-$CH_2OCH_2$-N<] groups; wherein:

(a) monomeric alkoxymethylated melamine units comprise at least 50 and up to 95 percent by weight of the monomeric and oligomeric alkoxymethylated melamine units in the composition as determined by size exclusion chromatography,

(b) alkoxymethyl groups comprise at least 5.0 moles of substituent groups attached to pendant nitrogen atoms per mole of monomeric melamine, and

(c) said alkoxymethyl groups on each melamine unit are methoxymethyl or mixtures of methyoxymethyl and higher alkoxymethyl groups; wherein

(d) when said composition comprises from 5 to 20 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content of less than 0.20 wt. %;

(e) when said composition comprises from 20 to 30 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content, I, defined by the algorithm, $I \leq 0.02X - 0.2$, where X is the weight percent oligomer in the composition and I is expressed in weight percent imino; or

(f) when said composition comprises from 30 to 50 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content of less than 0.7 wt. %,

(g) wherein said crosslinker composition does not comprise a carbamate co-crosslinking agent, and

(h) wherein the weight percent of said monomeric and oligomeric alkoxymethylated melamine molecules does not exceed 100%.